

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on July 2, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 2 and 5-8 are amended, claim 1 is canceled, and claims 26-29 are added; as a result, claims 2-29 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kapral (U.S. 4,468,653). Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to depend on claim 2 which is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 depend on claim 2. Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9-25 were indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record.

New Claims

Claims 26-29 have been added. Claims 26 and 27 depend on claim 5 which is believed to be in condition for allowance, and claims 28 and 29 depend on claim 6 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully believe that claims 26-29 are in condition for allowance at least by virtue of dependency.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (952-473-8800) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2359.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7 day of September, 2004.

Meredith Mescher

Name

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Signature